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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/602,184 | 06/22/2000 | Juergen Kleinschmidt | LMPY-6410 | 8719 |

7590 10/15/2003
Stallman & Pollock LLP
Brian Keating
121 Spear Street
Suite 290
San Francisco, CA 94105

EXAMINER

RODRIGUEZ, ARMANDO

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2828

DATE MAILED: 10/15/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/602,184

Applicant(s)

KLEINSCHMIDT ET AL.

Examiner

Armando Rodriguez

Art Unit

2828

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-17 and 19-61 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-17 and 19-61 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.



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Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1,3,5-17,19-61 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

The 35 USC 112 rejection has been withdrawn based on applicant's amendment.

The CFR 1.132 declaration has been acknowledged, which overcomes the 35 USC 102 (e) rejection mailed on March 31, 2003.

Claim Objections

Claims 10 and 11 are objected to because of the following informalities: claim 11 depends from claim 10, however claim 10 does not appear within the amendment filed on June 30, 2003. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1,3,5-8,10,11,37,39-41,46,47,50,51,54-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stamm et al (PN 6,381,256) and reference to Laude (PN 5,080,465) to show inherent characteristics of the grism, as permitted by MPEP 2131.01.

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Regarding claims 1,3,5-8,10,11,37,39-41,46,47,50,51,54-57,

Figure 5d of Stamm et al illustrates a molecular fluorine laser system having a gas filled chamber, a pair of electrodes (80), line narrowing optics (30) having prisms, apertures (34) and a diffraction grating for line selection, where the laser system provides a linewidth less than 1 pm, as described in the abstract. In column 2 lines 56-61, discloses and suggest that a grism may be used in any of the configurations using a grating. Stamm et al illustrates throughout the figures different embodiments, where the optics includes combinations of prisms, etalons and highly reflective mirrors.

Laude describes a grism as the combination of a prism and a grating, where the selected wavelength is not angularly displaced.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 9,12-36,42-45,48-53,56-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stamm et al (PN 6,381,256) in view of Laude (PN 5,080,465).

Regarding claims 9,12-36,

Stamm et al does not disclose the particular structure or arrangement of the grism, but does suggest placing the grism within the resonant cavity of the laser system.

Laude discloses particular features of the grism and discloses that such an element is well known in the art, see column 2 lines 56-61.

Therefore, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to arrange the grism in position within the resonant cavity and to provide different features to the grism, since it appears that the grism would perform equally well within any position of the cavity.

Regarding claim 42-45,58-61

Stamm et al is silent as to the structure of the grating.

Laude illustrates in figure 1 a grating having a bulk substrate (12) and a plurality of grooves.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person ordinary skill in the art to use the grating of Laude in the laser system of Stamm because it would provide line selection.

Regarding claims 48-53

The use of AR coatings or HR coating on surfaces of optical components is notoriously well-known in the laser art.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Armando Rodriguez whose telephone number is (703) 308-6218. The examiner can normally be reached on 10-hour day / M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Ip can be reached on (703) 308-3098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-4881.


Armando Rodriguez
Examiner
Art Unit 2828


Paul Ip
Supervisor
Art Unit 2828

AR/PI